

## PENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>SJ11 988WO</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. <b>PCT/CA2004/000990</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>07/07/2004</b>	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) <b>07/07/2003</b>	
Applicant <b>ROYAL ALLIANCE INC.</b>			

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b.  With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2.  Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

3.  Unity of Invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

**FURNITURE SYSTEM COMPOSED OF PANEL-SHAPED ELEMENTS**

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regards to the drawings,

a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

as suggested by the applicant.

as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b.  none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/CA2004/000990

**Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)**

The invention relates to a furniture system(1) which is composed of at least first and second rectangular panel-shaped elements(2,3,12,13) with in each case a first and second panel-shaped element(2,3,12,13) positioned at an angle with respect to the one another and each panel-shaped element(2,3,12,13) comprising two bearing surfaces and end sides which connect the bearing surfaces, the panel-shaped elements being assembled to form a furniture system(1) using connecting elements, characterized in that the connecting elements are tie rods (15,16), at least part of which runs parallel to the panel-shaped elements(2,3,12,13), the tie rods(15,16) connecting the panel-shaped elements(2,3,12,13) under tension. In the furniture system(1), the panel-shaped elements(2,3,12,13) can be indirectly connected to one another via coupling parts(14,24); in a furniture system(1), it is also possible for panel-shaped element to bear directly, by means of its end side, against the bearing surface of another panel -element. The invention also relates to a panel-shaped element for use in a furniture system and to a securing sleeve(72) which is to be accommodated in a opening(73) in a panel-shaped element(70).

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No  
PCT/CA2004/000990

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 A47B47/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 A47B F16B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 1 187 039 A (DAVID DENISON JONES) 8 April 1970 (1970-04-08) claim 1; figures	1,10,11
A		3,5-7
X	BE 886 279 A (GROSJEAN PIERRE) 16 March 1981 (1981-03-16) claim 1; figures	1
X	FR 2 596 821 A (GIGOT PHILIPPE) 9 October 1987 (1987-10-09) claim 1; figures	1,11,15
X	WO 03/015578 A (ROYAL ALLIANCE INC ; VAN RHENEN ALPHONS (CH)) 27 February 2003 (2003-02-27) claim 1; figures	1,10,11
		-/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 October 2004

Date of mailing of the International search report

03/11/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Amghar, N

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No  
PCT/CA2004/000990

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FR 2 832 602 A (VANDELANOITE PIERRE) 30 May 2003 (2003-05-30) figures	11-14
X	US 3 589 784 A (WINKELS WILLHELM) 29 June 1971 (1971-06-29) abstract; figures 4,5	1
X	FR 2 819 703 A (MONNET SEVE SA) 26 July 2002 (2002-07-26) abstract; figures	1
A	US 3 841 726 A (ANDROS A ET AL) 15 October 1974 (1974-10-15) column 3, lines 23-27; figure 1	2
A	DE 28 48 523 A (MORNATA PIEREMILIO) 31 May 1979 (1979-05-31) cited in the application figures	1
P,A	NL 1 021 244 C (ROTHMUND RENE DMT AG) 10 February 2004 (2004-02-10) figure 3	2
X	WO 97/25537 A (ECOARREDO S R L ; VITOLA LUIGI (IT)) 17 July 1997 (1997-07-17) claims 1-3; figures 1b-4	16
X	EP 0 131 149 A (PFEIFER PETER) 16 January 1985 (1985-01-16) abstract; figure	16
X	FR 1 265 305 A (BOZINO FRANCOIS PIERRE) 30 June 1961 (1961-06-30) claim 1; figure 1	16

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

 International Application No  
**PCT/CA2004/000990**

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB 1187039	A	08-04-1970	DE FR NL	1654589 A1 1545210 A 6715920 A	18-02-1971 08-11-1968 24-05-1968
BE 886279	A	16-03-1981	BE	886279 A1	16-03-1981
FR 2596821	A	09-10-1987	FR	2596821 A1	09-10-1987
WO 03015578	A	27-02-2003	CA WO	2355526 A1 03015578 A1	17-02-2003 27-02-2003
FR 2832602	A	30-05-2003	FR	2832602 A1	30-05-2003
US 3589784	A	29-06-1971	NONE		
FR 2819703	A	26-07-2002	FR	2819703 A1	26-07-2002
US 3841726	A	15-10-1974	AU JP	6689774 A 50001872 A	25-09-1975 09-01-1975
DE 2848523	A	31-05-1979	DE FR	2848523 A1 2410164 A1	31-05-1979 22-06-1979
NL 1021244	C	10-02-2004	NL	1021244 C2	10-02-2004
WO 9725537	A	17-07-1997	IT AU WO	CS960001 A1 1318497 A 9725537 A1	07-07-1997 01-08-1997 17-07-1997
EP 0131149	A	16-01-1985	DE DD DK EP FI NO PL	3320962 A1 218418 A5 284584 A 0131149 A1 842234 A 842276 A 248124 A1	13-12-1984 06-02-1985 11-12-1984 16-01-1985 11-12-1984 11-12-1984 13-02-1985
FR 1265305	A	30-06-1961	NONE		